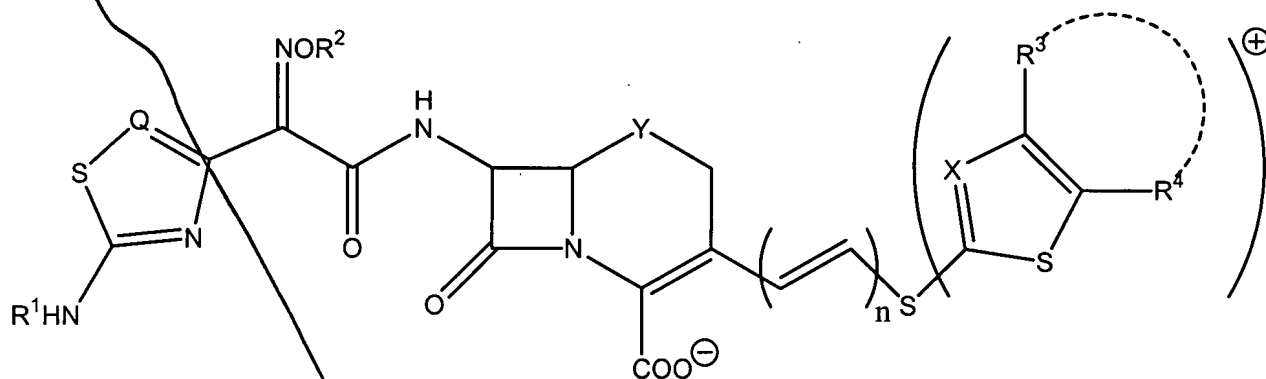


1. (AMENDED) A compound of the formula:



wherein R¹ is phosphono, dialkoxo-phosphoryl, O-alkyl-phosphono, diaminophosphoryl, (amino)(hydroxy)phosphoryl, (alkoxy)(morpholino)phosphoryl or dihalophosphoryl;

R² is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl group or a C₃₋₅ cycloalkyl group;

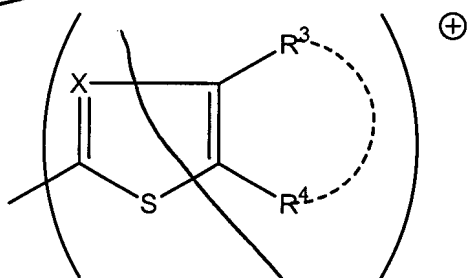
each of Q and X is a nitrogen atom or CH;

Y is S;

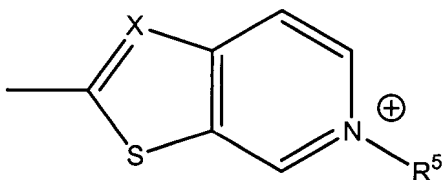
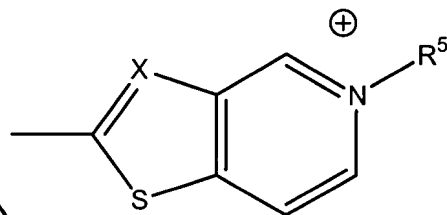
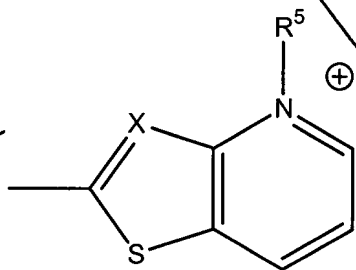
n is 0 or 1;

one of R³ and R⁴ is a pyridinium group which may be substituted and the other is a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group which may be substituted, or R³ and R⁴ taken together may form a quaternized nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring which may be substituted,

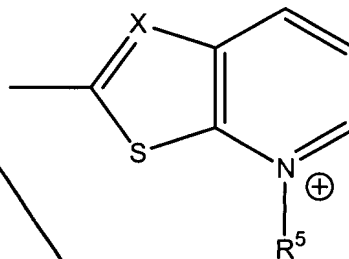
wherein when R³ and R⁴ are taken together, the group of the formula



is



or



wherein R⁵ is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;
salt or ester thereof.

12. (TWICE AMENDED) 7β-[2(Z)-ethoxyimino-2-(5-phosphonoamino-1,2,4-thiadiazole-3-yl)acetamido]-3-[4-(1-methyl-4-pyridinio)-2-thiazolylthio]-3-cephem-4-carboxylate, its ester or its salt.

21. (TWICE AMENDED) A method for producing a pharmaceutical composition comprising
mixing a compound of claim 1 with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or bulking agent.

~~18~~ 29. (NEW) A pharmaceutical composition containing the compound of claim ~~12~~ ⁴ and at least one of pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents and bulking agents.

~~19~~ 30. (NEW) A method for producing a pharmaceutical composition comprising mixing a compound of claim ~~12~~ ⁴ with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or bulking agent.

~~12~~ 31. (NEW) A method for treating a bacterial infection which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim ~~12~~ ⁴ to a patient suffering from the bacterial infection.

~~16~~ 32. (NEW) A method for treating a bacterial infection which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim ~~12~~ ⁴ together with at least one of pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents and excipients to a patient suffering from the bacterial infection.

~~21~~ 33. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim ~~31~~ ²¹, wherein the bacterial infection is a MRSA infection.

~~20~~ 34. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim ~~31~~ ¹², wherein the compound is administered by injection.

~~2~~ 35. (NEW) 7β -[2(Z)-ethoxyimino-2-(5-phosphonoamino-1,2,4-thiadiazole-3-yl)acetamido]-3-[4-(1-methyl-4-pyridinio)-2-thiazolylthio]-3-cephem-4-carboxylate.